# California State University, Los Angeles Emeriti Association

**Emeriti Center, Administration 815**

**California State University, Los Angeles**

**5151 State University Drive**

**Los Angeles, CA 90032**

# Minutes of the May 2006 Meeting

**Date:               May 12, 2006**

**Place:              Administration 815**

**Time:              Meeting called to order: 10:00 a.m.**

**Present:** D. Burrill, H. Cadenas, J. Casanova, W. Darrough, D. Dewey, J. Fisher-Hoult, M. Friedman, H. Goldwhite, J. Hoyt, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, D. Margaziotis, L. Mathy, B. Miller, L. Negrete, L. Schwartz, B. Sinclair, F. Stahl, Bill Taylor

**Absent:** P. Brier, H. Cohen and V. Potter

**Guest:** S. Albert

1. **Announcements**

Lou announced that Harold Cohen would not be present because of a family obligation. He said that he had not been able to obtain the home address of Carol Selkin. Members of the committee said that they would obtain it for him.

Don said that he received a card from Sam McSeveney.  Since two thirds of the Committee members were here when Sam left in 1965, Don thought we would be interested in the card. His son is being threatened with another tour of duty in Iraq.

Don circulated the card and two ARF notes from Northridge and a Silver Bulletin from Sacramento. The most striking thing about the Sacramento newsletter is that it is published thanks to being sponsored by a businessman.  He said that we might be interested in the kinds of groups they have at Northridge: a birding group, book groups, a bridge group, a film club, a photography club and a theater group. In case anyone is interested in organizing similar groups, they should go ahead. He also noted that Northridge requires 15 years of service for emeritus status and that they are considering not giving emeritus status to FERPS until they are fully retired.

Don said that he had received a call from Norman Unrau, who wanted to find out how one becomes a member. Don noted that Norman was an Emeritus, so he sent the information on to Karen and Harold. Don thought, however, that Unrau's plight indicated that we should think about how to make joining the Association easier to accomplish.

He then announced several deaths: Robert Lewis, Gene Fingerhut, John LaMonica and Millie Burnett. Frieda added Jack Heppe.

Don also announced some administrative changes: Bryant Alexander has replaced Carl Selkin as Acting Dean of Arts and Letters, Steve Jones replaced Alexander as Associate Dean, and Mary Falvey will be the new Dean of the College of Education. He said that none of these have been announced yet. He also announced that there was a new Librarian, although he did not get the name. He then said that the NSS Associate Dean Gary Novak is retiring and will be replaced by Nadine Koch as Acting Associate Dean. .

In response to Leon's request for photos that might be useful for the archives, Joan circulated a picture of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Physical Education building along with some articles about and photos of Billie Jean King's first visit to campus. She also circulated a photo of her annual fund-raising event last year. She announced that the event this year would be Saturday, September 30th when Billie Jean will be here for the 9th straight year.

Joe asked if either Frieda or Don Dewey had been in touch with Harold Cohen about the deaths they had announced for revision of the database. Frieda said that Harold had the information, and that now he received the information because people were sending the notices on the form intended for the website. She said that they learned of the deaths of Scherer and Heppe through the forms returned by Ben's widow and Jack's son.

Leon circulated a detailed description of the various locations of the organization's archives.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

M/s/p to approve agenda.

1. **Approval of Minutes of April 13th, 2006.**

Don Dewey, Leon, Frieda and Joan offered corrections. Bill agreed to make them. The minutes were m/s/p as corrected.

**4.0       Officer and Committee Reports and Recommendations**

* 1. **President:  Louis Negrete**

Lou suggested that he, Bill Taylor, Bob Miller, Joe, and Janet set up a meeting to discuss the transfer of financial records. They agreed to meet at noon on June 20th at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

**4.2       Past President:  Barbara Sinclair**

No Report.

**4.3       Vice President - Administration:  Harold Goldwhite**

No Report

**4.4**     **Vice President - Programs:  Herminia Cadenas**

Herminia said that all preparations had been made for the luncheon, but that she needed help moving wine from her car to the site. She received several offers of assistance.

**4.5     4.6 Fiscal Affairs Chair & Treasurer: Joe Casanova and Bob Miller**

Bob reported that he was working to resolve the financial problem with the Foundation. He had a check for $442.00 that he was going to turn over to them after the meeting to clear up our account and allow them to pay for the fellowships that we awarded this year. He said that the credit union is still paying dividends on our share certificate. Bob reported that we are well short of the $3000 income expected this year through dues.

**4.7      Fellowship Fund Chair: Janet Fisher-Hoult**

Janet reported that there were 96 graduate applications for fellowships that she has weeded down to a little over 30. She had copies ready to distribute to the Scholarship Committee, but noticed five applications were missing. She distributed copies so that members could begin considering them and said that she would get the other five applications to them as soon as possible.

Janet then reported that the rating scale she had submitted is now being used throughout the University. The document is still being fine-tuned with suggestions that are still coming in. She said that the process should be much smoother in the future, thanks to the changes.

She suggested that we agendize the issue of how we are going to relate to Financial Aid and the Development Office to make certain that we don't have another costly accounting gap between our financial accounting and theirs. She observed that we now have better connections with them and should be coordinating our accounts more effectively. Janet then introduced Lisa Yu, an assistant in the Financial Aid Office who has been working with her on the Scholarship Project.

Joe praised the hard work that Janet has done in this area and said that, although we talk a lot about changing things on campus, Janet's work has had an important and positive effect of campus operations to the benefit of our students. He said that the Committee should commend her for her service.

**4.8       OLLI:  Peter Brier**

Not present/no report.

**4.9       Historian/Archivist: Leon Schwartz**

Leon reported that he brought the photo album in to place on the table at the luncheon. He said that there was a retirement reception that evening for Hildebrando Villarreal at Luminarias at 6.

**4.10     Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Friedman**

Marilyn reported that she had sent condolence cards to: the family of Robert Lewis, the widow of William Long, and the family of Raquel Montenegro, whose husband died. She sent get-well cards to Frieda, Don Moore and Janet for her husband. Janet said that he is doing well. Marilyn plans to send a card to the families of Jack Heppe, Gene Fingerhut, Millie Burnett and Ben Scherer.

**4.11     Membership Secretary: Karen Johnson**

No report.

**4.12     Webmaster: Demetrius Margaziotis**

Demetrius reported that the website is up to date with the exception of one item that Joe sent him to post that will be up in the near future. He received an email through the website from Charles Brinkley who was asking how he can join the Association. Demetrius quickly replied that he would forward the email to the appropriate people and forwarded it on to Karen and to Lou. Demetrius observed, however, that the email, along with Don's experience with Norm Unreu provide clear evidence that we should make if easier for people who did not join when they were granted emeritus status to join through the website or *Emeritimes.* Demetrius said that the Committee discussed this issue two or three times and took no action. Rather than putting it under New Business, and again taking no action, Demetrius suggested that Karen brief him on membership information that he could post on the website to facilitate applications.

**4.13     Database Coordinator: Harold Cohen**

Not present/no report.

**4.14     Secretary: William Darrough**

No report.

**4.15     Emeritimes Editorial Chair: Frieda Stahl**

Frieda announced that she would need the standing columns by the first week in July. She added that any membership form created for the website should also be made available through *Emeritimes,* once or twice a year*.* Joe suggested that each issue carry a two-line bulletin instructing anyone interested in joining the Association to visit our website for information. Frieda said that not all people are online, but it was agreed that such a bulletin would be useful for people who are.

Joan asked Frieda to meet with her to discuss the number of copies sent to the various offices. She said that she had two separate lists and they are not the same. In addition, she suggested that too many were being sent to some offices.

Don Dewey agreed. He argued that we would probably get more mileage out of sending four copies to the deans and one to the department chairs rather than two to the chairs and one to the deans. He said that he has yet to see a chair post, share, or even look at it. He based these comments on the History Department, but argued that the most chairs seem to have dropped the ball on this.  Therefore a small stack in college offices would have a better chance of being seen. There was general agreement, but Marilyn also suggested that it might be time to write another note to department chairs soliciting their assistance in promoting the Association. Don said that he made that pitch in person to no avail, but would welcome someone drafting a statement.

**4.16      CSULA Academic Senate: Don Dewey**

Don reported that the President signed the salary inversion issue that was discussed at the last meeting. He signed it and said in effect that when we have funds we will use them in this way as we have in the past.  He has not signed the issue on class size and faculty determination of whether a class can be enlarged or not.

There is, on the current agenda, a proposed requirement for mandatory orientation of all new students entering the campus, with more specific reference to those from high school or community college.

Martin Brodwin delivered the President's Distinguished Professor's presentation. Don said it was an exceptionally unique from all others that he has heard. He included talks by three former students with various types of disabilities who had gone on to success.

When asked, Don said that there had been no discussion in the Senate of Barry Munitz's return to campus although the matter was discussed in CFA meetings. Harold Goldwhite said that, at the state level, the Chancellor was somewhat upset by the issue. He wanted to have nothing to do with Trustee Professorships, strongly disliking the whole concept. When he became Chancellor, he asked holders of the position to resign at the earliest possible moment and several of them did. However, Munitz was guaranteed a Trustee Professorship during his tenure as Chancellor. The subtext was that there was no way that the agreement could be cancelled.

Harold suggested that the specific question that should be asked President Rosser is what were the terms under which Munitz was given a leave for such a long period.

**4.17     CSU Academic Senate: Harold Goldwhite**

The statewide Senate met in May with the longest agenda Harold has seen, but one that did not carry a lot of significant resolutions and there were few policy positions taken at the meeting. One interesting issue was a resolution in support of reexamination of the faculty salary structure in which questions of compression and inversion were once again drawn to the attention of the bargaining party. It was a very neutral resolution saying that they should look at this. The bargaining is going on right now.

The Senate requested that the CSU Academic Conference be reinstituted. It was a long-standing tradition of the Academic Senate that has been in suspension for three or four years. It was one of the few occasions in which faculty, administrators, trustees, students all get together in a relatively relaxed atmosphere to talk about academic matters. Harold believes that it was a valuable tradition that the Senate would like to see revived.

The Senate asked faculty to mitigate the cost of textbooks, a hot issue right now.

Harold observed that the recommended CSU budget priorities for the next AY are about what one would expect: reduce the Student Faculty Ratio, improve compensation i.e. "motherhood and apple pie issues" that the Trustees rarely pay much attention to, but ones that have to be raised from time to time.

The Senate took action on a number of pieces of legislation that are of interest to faculty. They supported A.B. 2581, protecting students' freedom of expression. There have been some recent rulings in California courts suggesting that the contents of student newspapers might be subject to prior censorship. The Senate went on record opposing attempts at prior censorship of university newspapers.

The Senate supported A.B. 2813 that expands the Cal Grant program and increases the maximum age of eligible students from 24 to 27.

They opposed A.B. 2166 by Carol Lieu that mandates a single transfer G.E. package for both the CSU and UC. The Academic Senate fears that the bill tries to solve a UC problem by adopting legislation that will only affect the CSU.

The new Senate was convened and elected it's officers for 2006-2007: Chair-Marchelle Thobaben (Humboldt-Nursing) who continues as Chair, Vice Chair: Barry Pasternack (Fullerton- **Information Systems & Decision Sciences), Secretary: Marshall Cates (Los Angeles, Mathematics), Members-at-Large: Hank Reichman (East Bay-History) and Paul Persons (Chico-Political Science).**

**4.18     CSU ERFA Council Reps.: Harold Goldwhite, Leon Schwartz and Barbara P. Sinclair**

Leon reported the death of Howard Seemann, the editor of The Reporter and Chair of the Publications committee.

There was an announcement about standards for academic appointment, retention and promotion. Management proposes to bypass the Academic Senate and bargain these issues directly with CFA. David Elliot, President of CSU ERFA deplored this course of action.

Bob Kully urged all members to sign up for ListServe and urged all active state employees to support George Diehr for reelection. According to Kully, Assemblyman Keith Richman's proposed constitutional amendment would again be a threat to the current PERS pension plan because it would create a so-called hybrid system based on both defined benefits and defined contributions. Richman is also a Republican candidate for State Treasurer. If elected, he would become a member of the PERS board.

President David Elliot announced new Council members: Harry Sharp of San Luis Obispo and Dave Humphers of Sacramento State, Wayne Savage of San Jose State and Dave Dufault of San Diego State.

Milt Dobkin of the Health Benefits Committee reported on a variety of issues: a pilot program to provide better service to rural areas, the shift of PERS from Caremark to Medco, and efforts to control the rising costs of long term care.

On the legislative front: A.B. 2132 proposes to reinstate "unretirees," i.e. those who want to be reactivated as employees, with the option to change their retirement conditions and benefits. S.B. 1168 will extend assistance to rural retirees from 2008 until 2012.

The State Legislative Analyst, Elizabeth Hill was keynote speaker. She said that the proposed state budget is not balanced and that an economic recession would be ruinous to the state. She also said that the predicted housing market decline of twenty percent is a serious threat to the budget. The state can only absorb a decline of five percent. She said that medical care required under federal requirements would hit the state hard. She also said that the budget has grown in all sectors except social services.

There is a piece of legislation identified as Gatsby 45 that requires that in 2007-2008 all government systems must report the cost of their retirement benefits. Since there are a growing number of retirees who are living longer, the state is saddled with a bigger and bigger retirement payout. This could hit the state with increased cost, a figure that could result in a 70 billion dollar shortfall. According to Hill, the status quo is unsustainable; that we must either reduce programs, increase taxes or both. The Governor has not addressed the problem. Our state bonds are now the lowest rated of the 36 states that have them. We are still rated A- but are the lowest of all the A minuses. The state economy is now over one trillion dollars. We are bigger than France.

Harold said that there was a recommendation in the budget for counting new graduate enrollments as twelve units for FTES rather than fifteen. That will become effective, but only for any increase in graduate enrollment. This will bring perhaps a million dollars into the CSU next year in extra revenues. He also said that there was a change in marginal cost calculation, the cost of adding extra students as we get increased enrollment. That may not be a concern for this campus but it is a concern for the system. There will be a new figure for new marginal enrollment that is larger than what we are currently given. That could lead to about an eight million dollar increase in the budget next year over what the governor originally proposed.

Leon reported that Bob Bess (Sacramento) the new Legislative Committee Chair praised the outstanding service of his predecessor, Wilma Krebs. He also warned about the proposed Richmond constitutional amendment.  He urged anyone who wishes to get information on legislation to email him at *rbess@sbcglobal.net*. Wilma Krebs added that there is a proposal to make the retirement age eligibility in CSU 65, with an exception for persons injured on the job.

A resolution was passed unanimously honoring Wilma Krebs. Don Dewey concurred, but added that in spite of all the accolades for Wilma Krebs, he predicts that Bob Bess will do a tremendous job.

New business was election of officers. Among the results: Don Dewey was elected President and Frieda Stahl member at large of the Executive Committee.

It was m/s/p to establish a Webmaster's position to be added to the Executive Committee. The Membership Committee reported current membership at 2920 still short of the longstanding goal of 3000. Don Dewey said that the target might be reached this year due to the hard work of the new Chair of the Committee, Don Cameron.

Barbara said that she was really impressed with Elizabeth Hill and that we should keep her in mind when we are looking for speakers. Janet added that Bob Bess talked about legislative information, saying that he wants to get word out about the website in the next ERFA newsletter, so that people can follow developments in the legislature.

Prior to adjournment, Demetrius noted that the contact information for those who want to join the Association includes the home address of the Treasurer. He suggested that a home address might be appropriate for an envelope, but not for the web. It was decided that it would be better for the website to direct inquires and applications to the Treasurer at the Emeriti Center.

**5.0      Unfinished Business**

**6.0       New Business**

**7.0       Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.